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DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:JVMONTVILLE-DOD/ISA:COL.SKOGERBOE:SM

APPROVED BY NEA-MR. ATHERTON

NEA/AFN:MWWILEY

NEA/RA:SSCHIFF

PM/SAS:COL.D.FAR H M

DOD/ISA:GBADER

J-5:GEN.KIEFE (I F)

ARMY:GEN.CLELLAND

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER -

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MO

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR MOROCCO

REF: (A) STATE 244462 (B) STATE 244607

(C) MUSLO MSG DATED 211503 JUN 74

(D) RABAT 2566

(E) MUSLO MSG DATED 241018Z JUN 74

(F) STATE 143596

(G) MUSLO MSG DATED 091350Z JUL 74

1. SUMMARY: AT THIS JUNCTURE IN OUR DIALOGUE WITH GOM ON ITS MILITARY REQUIREMENTS, DEPT AND DOD BELIEVE IT IS TIMELY TO EXAMINE OUR MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP IN LIGHT OF RESOURCE LIMITATIONS THAT AFFECT GOM'S ASPIRATIONS. WE BELIEVE MOROCCANS MUST BE PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH EQUIP-
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MENT ACQUISITION BASED ON NORMAL PRODUCTION LEAD-TIMES AND WITH STRICTLY LIMITED USG ROLE IN FINANCING UNDER FMS LEGISLATION. END SUMMARY.

2. AS POINTED OUT REF A, TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR TAT/MOROCCO SPECIFICALLY PRECLUDED TEAM FROM DEVELOPING FOR GOM ANY KIND OF INDEPENDENT SURVEY OF MOROCCAN MILITARY NEEDS. THIS RESTRICTION WAS PREMISED ON OUR DESIRE TO AVOID DIRECT ASSOCIATION OF U.S. WITH GOM'S TOTAL MILITARY ASPIRATIONS THAT, IN VIEW OF ALGERIA'S OVERWHELMING MATERIAL ADVANTAGE, WERE AND ARE CLEARLY BEYOND BOTH GOM RESOURCES AS WELL

AS LIMITED U.S. FUNDS AVAILABLE. THEN AS NOW, WHILE WISHING TO DEMONSTRATE OUR WILLINGNESS TO BE FORTHCOMING ON MOROCCO'S SECURITY NEEDS, WE DO NOT WISH GIVE GOM FALSE SIGNAL ON EXPANSIVE FLEXIBILITY U.S. RESOURCES. OUR POLICY APPROACH WAS AND REMAINS TO MAKE CLEAR REALISTIC LIMITATIONS ON OUR RESOURCES, TO HELP OVER TIME WITH PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS, BUT ALSO TO HAVE GOM REALIZE THAT IT SHOULD LOOK TO OTHER FRIENDLY SOURCES FOR SUPPLY AND FINANCING, AS WELL.

3. WE AWARE THIS APPROACH POSES DIFFICULT BALANCING ACT FOR EMBASSY IN ATTEMPTING TO DEMONSTRATE CONVINCINGLY U.S. CONCERN. NONETHELESS, LIMITATIONS ON U.S. RESOURCES, BOTH AS TO PROJECTED AVAILABLE CREDIT FUNDS AND U.S. EQUIPMENT LEAD-TIMES, INDICATE THIS STILL ONLY REALISTIC APPROACH PERMITTED BY CIRCUMSTANCES. BASED ON OUR RECENT EXPERIENCE IN ATTEMPTING TO HELP GOM OBTAIN GUARANTEED PRIVATE CREDIT AND UNGUARANTEED COMMERCIAL FINANCING, GOM CLEARLY DISTURBED BY HIGH INTEREST RATES; BELIEVE, THEREFORE THAT GOM LIKELY TO VIEW COMMERCIAL FINANCING OF LIMITED UTILITY IN HELPING FUND ITS MILITARY REQUIREMENTS. AS STATED REF H PARA 5, ALTHOUGH WE WILL TRY TO IMPROVE OUR FMS PROGRAM IN FY 75, CONGRESS MUST FIRST VOTE A BILL, AND WE HAVE NO WAY OF TELLING NOW WHAT LEGISLATION WILL DEVELOP. EVEN IF ADDITIONAL FUNDS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE, CONGRESSIONAL DOLS 40 MILLION CEILING POSES CONSTRAINT THAT CANNOT BE EXCEEDED UNLESS PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER AUTHORITY REESTABLISHED IN LEGISLATION.

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4. ALTHOUGH WE WILLING TO CONSIDER INCREASE IN CREDIT FOR FY 76, THIS AGAIN DEPENDENT ON RAISING 40 MILLION DOLLARS CEILING AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS BY CONGRESS. EVEN ASSUMING AN ANNUAL FMS CREDIT FIGURE OF 12 - 15 MILLION DOLLARS IN USG GUARANTEED PRIVATE CREDIT PROJECTED THROUGH FY 77, IF CEILING UNCHANGED, THE 36-45 MILLION DOLLARS AVAILABLE THROUGH FMS CREDIT, PLUS 50 MILLION

DOLLARS CREDIT APPARENTLY AVAILABLE FROM SAUDIS AMOUNTS TO 86-95 MILLION DOLLARS POTENTIALLY IDENTIFIABLE THROUGH FY 77; AND THIS IS CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF ESTIMATE REQUIRED FOR KING'S STATED EQUIPMENT NEEDS, EVEN FOR ONE BRIGADE.

5. AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT IS ALSO SERIOUS PROBLEM THAT WILL SIGNIFICANTLY LIMIT U.S. ABILITY TO BE RESPONSIVE TO KING HASSAN'S DESIRE FOR EXPEDITED FUTURE DELIVERIES. MOST OF THE EQUIPMENT GOM DESIRES IS IN SHORT SUPPLY AND UNLESS KING WILLING CONSIDER NORMAL LEAD-TIMES, WE CANNOT HOPE MEET MANY REQUIREMENTS. RECENT DECISION IN EXPEDITING

M-48A3S WAS INTENDED AS EXTRAORDINARY GESTURE FOR HIGH PRIORITY ITEM AND CANNOT BE TAKEN AS STANDARD OF FUTURE PERFORMANCE. REQUESTS FOR LETTERS OF OFFER ON TOW AND CHAPPARAL ARE BEING PROCESSED AND IF SALE FOR CASH APPROVED, ARE EXPECTED TO INDICATE 24-MONTH LEAD-TIME FOR TOW, AND 36-MONTH LEAD-TIME FOR CHAPPARAL. TOW PRODUCER PRESENTLY ON STRIKE AND 24-MONTH LEAD-TIME BASED ON ASSUMPTION STRIKE WILL BE SETTLED IN REASONABLE LENGTH OF TIME. REDEYE IS NOT REPEAT NOT FOR SALE FOR SECURITY REASONS. LEAD-TIMES AND PRICES ARE GOOD ONLY AS OF TIME QUOTED AND DELAY IN REQUESTS FOR LETTERS OF OFFER MAY RESULT IN PRICE AND AVAILABILITY CHANGE.

6. AS TO MOROCCO'S REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED DELIVERY OF ADDITIONAL 28 M-48A3 TANKS, 2 TOW LAUNCHERS AND 1 CHAPPARAL LAUNCHER, THIS AGAIN WOULD NECESSITATE DIVERTING FROM U.S. ARMY, WHICH WE CANNOT CONSIDER UNTIL WE HAVE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW GOM INTENDS TO PROCEED IN MEETING TOTAL EQUIPMENT NEEDS. WHAT ITEMS WOULD MOROCCANS BE LOOKING TO THE US TO PROVIDE, AND WHAT DO THEY INTEND TO OBTAIN ELSEWHERE? MIGHT BE BEST FOR EMBASSY CONSIDER BEFOREHAND REQUIREMENTS ON WHICH WE MIGHT BEST FOCUS OUR

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LIMITED RESOURCES AND AVOID OTHERWISE INEVITABLE DEMANDS THAT WE CANNOT HOPE TO MEET. WHILE TAT ANALYSIS DOES NOT PROVIDE COMPLETE EVALUATION OF RMAF ASSETS AND ABIL TO ABSORB AND MAINTAIN NEW EQUIPMENT, IT PROVIDES SUFFICIENT DATA FOR MOROCCANS TO COMPLETE FUNDING PLAN, REALIZING LEAD-TIME FOR MANY ITEMS HAVE INCREASED.

7. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, WE BELIEVE IT BEST NOT TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY TEAM AS REQUESTED REF C BECAUSE OF IMPLICATIONS THIS WOULD HAVE FOR OUR FUTURE LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT WITH GOM'S TOTAL REQUIREMENTS. WE COULD BE WILLING, HOWEVER, AS WITH PREVIOUSLY AGREED M-48A3 TANK SALE, TO SEND TEAM TO SURVEY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH SPECIFIC ITEMS GOM HAS ALREADY AGREED TO

PURCHASE FROM US.

8. IN SUM, WE WILL BE MORE ABLE TO DEAL WITH GOM

REQUESTS, INCLUDING REQUESTS FOR EXPEDITIOUS DELIVERY OF 28 M-48A3'S, TWO TOW LAUNCHERS, IF APPROVED, AND ONE CHAPPARAL, IF THE GOM IS WILLING TO SIGN LETTERS OF OFFER FOR EQUIPMENT AT NORMAL LEAD-TIMES; INDICATES ITS INTENTION TO PROCURE OTHER ITEMS IN TAT REPORT, E.G., APC'S AND TRUCKS, AT NORMAL LEAD TIMES, AND FINALLY, DEMONSTRATES ITS AWARENESS THAT MOST OF THE FINANCING MUST COME FROM NON-USG SOURCES.

9. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS AND ADVICE ON FOREGOING. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: LIMDIS CAPTION ADDED AND DISSEMINATION PER S/S-O, MR. R. KUCHEL.

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